

#### Members

Rep. Greg Porter, Chairperson  
Rep. Paul Robertson  
Rep. David Orentlicher  
Rep. Robert Behning  
Rep. Phyllis Pond  
Rep. Jeffrey Thompson  
Sen. Ron Alting, Vice-Chairperson  
Sen. Gary Dillon  
Sen. Jeff Drozda  
Sen. Billie Breaux  
Sen. Connie Sipes  
Sen. Timothy Skinner



## INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ISSUES

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### MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

**Meeting Date:** September 21, 2004  
**Meeting Time:** 10:00 A.M.  
**Meeting Place:** State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 404  
**Meeting City:** Indianapolis, Indiana  
**Meeting Number:** 2

**Members Present:** Rep. Greg Porter, Chairperson; Rep. Paul Robertson; Rep. David Orentlicher; Rep. Robert Behning; Rep. Phyllis Pond; Rep. Jeffrey Thompson; Sen. Ron Alting, Vice-Chairperson; Sen. Gary Dillon; Sen. Jeff Drozda; Sen. Billie Breaux; Sen. Connie Sipes; Sen. Timothy Skinner.

**Members Absent:** None.

#### Call to Order

Chairman Porter called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. He read the items on the agenda to be discussed at the meeting.

#### School-based Mentoring Programs

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Gina Woodward, School Counseling Consultant and Gaylon Nettles, Director, Office of Student Services, Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), distributed information to the Committee on Mentoring Programs in Indiana Schools (Available from Legislative Services Information Center as Exhibits A - H). The two advised the Committee that in 1992 the Indiana State Board of Education adopted a rule, 511 IAC 6.1-5-3.5, requiring middle level schools to implement student advisory, or advisor-advisee, programs. There are over 70 mentoring programs currently in Indiana that are locally funded. First Lady Maggie Kernan's involvement with the Mentor Indiana program was mentioned. The program will target 16 middle and junior high schools from 13 Indiana communities. It is in its pilot year, and 1000 7th grade students will be paired with 1000 mentors from businesses, trade unions, and community organizations statewide, forming a public-private partnership.

In response to Committee members' questions, Ms. Woodward and Mr. Nettles discussed: (a) self-reporting evaluations that assess success of the programs, (b) grantees, and (c) training and technical assistance received from the state to implement school advisory programs.

Carolyn Jackson and Bill Glick, Indiana Juvenile Justice Task Force, Inc., presented information on the Jump Program (Jump) in Madison County (Exhibit I). Jump matches at-risk students that participate in the Fresh Start program or have been referred by school staff or the probation department with adult role models. Mentors make a one year commitment to meet one-on-one with students at least one hour per week in the school or at the most convenient location between the mentor, student and parent. Jump is funded through a three year federal grant for \$200,000. Goals for student participants include: (a) reduction of high-risk behavior, (b) better school attendance, (c) less disruptive classroom behavior, (d) employment, (e) development of conflict resolution skills, (f) increase in self-esteem, (g) increase in academic performance, and (h) lower risk of beginning use of drugs or alcohol.

In response to Committee members' questions, Ms. Jackson and Mr. Glick discussed: (a) training for mentors, (b) screening of mentors including criminal background checks, (c) orientation for mentors, mentees and parents, (d) parent participation, (e) current enrollment of about 18 - 20 participants, and (f) federal grant requirements.

Greg Campbell, Indiana Youth Services, presented information on a delinquency prevention program for children of Indiana prisoners (Exhibit J). The program will seek to recruit and train 320 volunteer mentors to be matched with 320 children ages 4-18 over a three year period. The mentors will serve as role models for the children and assist the families in maintaining economic and social stability while the incarcerated parent is absent. Participating youth services bureaus are as follows: (a) Family Services/Youth Service Bureau of Elkhart, (b) Big Brothers/Big Sisters of LaPorte County, (c) C.H.A.N.C.E.S for Youth (Terre Haute), (d) Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau, (e) Community and Family Resources (Lafayette), and (f) Youth Service Bureau of Wabash County. The program received a \$300,000 federal grant for a three year period and must recruit 25 - 30 participants each year as part of the requirements of receiving the grant. Training for the mentors is based on the curricula of the Aftercare through Indiana Mentoring and Big Brothers/Big Sisters programs. Benchmarks are in place to measure program compliance and effectiveness.

Mary Wilhelmus, IDOE, announced that Indiana is the first state to implement the full testing element of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). She presented information on the costs associated with state educational mandates (Exhibit K). She stated that Indiana is one of 5 states currently in compliance with the NCLB because of the accountability standards already in place in the state under Indiana P.L. 221. She

reported that \$18 million in the biennium is earmarked for school improvement awards; however, the implementation of the grade 7 science test and ancillary costs associated with acquiring "highly qualified" school personnel has increased state costs and created a shortfall. The following information was also presented concerning federal money received to achieve state educational mandates:

- In 2002, Title I schools received \$152.7 million (up from \$128.8 million for 2001).
- \$7.49 million yearly for ISTEP+ testing in Grades 4, 5, and 7 in English and mathematics and for Grade 5 Science
- \$500,000 to develop the Student Testing Number data system (used for Accountability)
- Title III (English Language Acquisition) \$3.7 million
- Reading First Dollars

In response to Committee members' questions, Ms. Wilhelmus discussed: (a) state advocacy in D.C., (b) consequences for schools or school corporations that do not meet yearly progress standards, (c) the state remediation grant, and (d) the potential need for a state grant writer.

Wes Bruce, IDOE, presented updated information to the Committee on school accountability in Indiana (Exhibit L).

Lowell Rose, Indiana Urban School Association, discussed the following issues related to educational mandates: (a) the disconnect between local and state administration, and (b) the criteria, contributions and costs of the NCLB Act.

Cheryl Orr, Indiana Commission for Higher Education, presented information to the Committee on the Indiana Education Roundtable (Roundtable) (Exhibit M). She discussed the background and purpose of the Roundtable. She also discussed the P-16 Plan that is the culmination of the efforts by the Roundtable to build on the progress made in the state of Indiana to develop a statewide system that meets the goal of providing every student with the preparation they need to be active and productive citizens. She testified that the P-16 plan crafted by the Roundtable includes approximately 70 recommendations that are consistent with actions called for in P.L. 146-1999, P.L. 221-1999, and the NCLB Act.

In response to questions asked by Committee members, Ms. Orr discussed the following: (a) requirements for a high school diploma, (b) the Core 40 curriculum, (c) time lines for programs, and (d) the process of prioritizing recommendations.

Chairman Porter announced that there will be a continuation of the discussion on state educational mandates at the next Committee meeting on October 12, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 404 of the Indiana Statehouse.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

